



ATG MIDPAC changes command aboard Battleship Missouri ... A-5

# HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS

Serving the 'Best Homeport in the Navy'



Pearl Harbor offers a variety of events for the family this Easter ... B-1

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## SECNAV visits Hawaii

*Secretary England tours Pearl Harbor, talks with local Navy leaders, Sailors*

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Staff Writer

"I thoroughly enjoyed meeting our Sailors," said the Honorable Gordon R. England, the 72nd Secretary of the Navy, as he concluded his two-day visit to Oahu. While on the island, England toured Pearl Harbor. His first stop was USS Lake Erie (CG 70). Capt. J. Hammerer, Lake Erie's commanding officer, greeted England and escorted the secretary to the ship's wardroom. There, ship's officers briefed England on the capabilities of the guided missile cruiser and gave him

a re-creation of their latest successful missile test in the ship's combat control center. During his visit, England presented the Navy Achievement Medal to Senior Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Michael W. Zeigler, Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Gary M. Dupras and Fire Controlman 2nd Class Peter Damian Landrum, of Lake Erie's Combat Systems Department. "I was shocked," said Dupras. "I had no idea that I was on the ship on a Sunday morning to do any more than help out with the combat presentation in CIC." "Receiving the award was a complete surprise," said Zeigler. "The Combat Systems officer and commanding officer did not reveal the awards were going to be issued. The other two award recipients and I thought we were on board to replay the AEGIS LEAP Intercept Flight Mission for the Secretary of the Navy and Adm. Fargo. It's great to know our senior leadership still appreciates what happens on the deckplates."

After leaving the ship, England visited the

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JO2 Daniel Calderón photo  
Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England sits with Adm. Thomas Fargo, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in the Combat Information Center aboard USS Lake Erie (CG 70) during a recent visit to Pearl Harbor. A missile exercise was conducted aboard the guided missile cruiser.



Adm. Thomas B. Fargo

### Fargo nominated to replace Blair as CINCPAC

Department of Defense

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced March 21 that the president has nominated Navy Adm. Thomas B. Fargo for appointment to the grade of admiral and with assignment as commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command, Honolulu, Hawaii. Fargo is currently serving as commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

### 'Ready for Easter Eggs-travaganza'



JO2 Jim Williams photo  
Children of all ages took part in an Easter egg hunt at Scott Pool, kicking off this year's Pearl Harbor Easter activities. See B-1 for things to do this weekend.

### Surface Force to begin Sea Swap initiative during summer 2002

COMNAVSURFPAC & COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC Public Affairs

This summer the Pearl Harbor-based USS Fletcher (DD 992) will be part of an innovative plan to test the effectiveness of deploying a single ship for 18 months while swapping out crews at six-month intervals. The plan, called "Sea Swap," will also involve the crews of two San Diego-based Spruance Class Destroyers (DDs) - USS Kinkaid (DD 965) and USS Oldendorf (DD 972). Three Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers (DDGs) - USS Higgins, USS John Paul Jones and USS Benfold will participate in a similar parallel plan. During a time when the Navy's force structure is stretched increasingly thin by operational requirements around the globe, it is expected to produce significant increases in forward presence and on-station time.

Here's how the plan will work: For the DD phase, Fletcher and her crew will deploy with their battle group this summer, but after six months, only the crew will come back to Pearl Harbor. The ship will remain deployed and be manned by the crew from Kinkaid. The crew of Kincaid will complete their standard training cycle, but instead of deploying with their ship, they will decommission the 26-year-old Kinkaid. Then they will fly to a port in the Pacific to assume "ownership" of Fletcher and steam her back on-station. After six-months, they will be replaced by the crew from Oldendorf who will have completed the same training and decommissioning schedule with their ship before flying out to relieve the Kinkaid crew. After four more months on station, the Oldendorf crew will ride the Fletcher back to the

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## Navy takes charge of dispatching DoD emergency services

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Staff Writer

In the past, Oahu's military emergency services were a potent protective force, but they were limited in their connectivity.

Now, with the opening of the new Regional Operation Command and Control Center (ROCCC), their connectivity is increased and their potency is enhanced.

Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway Jr., Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/Commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific, and Coast Guard Rear Adm. Jeffrey Hathaway, Director of Anti-terrorism and Force Protection OPNAV N-34 serving on the Navy staff, attended the opening March 20.

"The ROCCC brings all emergency entities into one area and we

will dispatch for all fire and various emergency services," said Mike Jones, Navy Region Hawaii Fire Chief and Deputy Public Safety Officer.

"The Navy has agreed to take over dispatching for DoD [Department of Defense] in the state of Hawaii. The Federal Fire Department [here] already provides service for the military services, except the Air Force so the change will be seamless for us. Security forces and fire dispatch for the Air Force will be added to our responsibilities."

The center is the second of its kind in the Navy. The first facility opened is in San Diego. The ROCCC is the only one of its kind on the island of Oahu. It incorporates fire, security and ambulance services under one roof. Housed in an existing building on Naval Station

Pearl Harbor, the new center cost about \$800,000 to complete. If a new facility had been built, Jones estimates the cost would have been between \$3 million and \$4 million.

"It's a 3,400-square-foot area on the ground floor," said Jones. "Fire [crews were] dispatched out of that building and we had infrastructure in place to make the move easier. It's a secure building, built during a time when they built two-foot cement walls."

Inside, computer systems receive information from around the area. Quanta Systems was the prime contractor for the integration of the new systems in the ROCCC. With the new equipment, the ROCCC has the capability to "see" military sites across Oahu.

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JO2 Daniel Calderón photo  
Michelle Ponce, an emergency vehicle dispatcher at the new Regional Operation Command and Control Center, keeps constant watch over her monitors for breaking emergencies across Oahu.